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Protective Coat for Riot Troop Members

(S.T.A.R. Vest)

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TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Submitted by
Canadian Police Research Centre

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NOTE: Further information
about this report can be
obtained by calling the
CPRC information number
(613) 998-6343

SUMMARY

Star Vest Evaluation

As a result of increasing hostilities in crowd and other group actions, it was deemed appropriate to investigate better means of protecting police officers exposed to the dangers generated by these crowds and groups.

Staff Sergeant Vic Marion of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Headquarters Training Section was instrumental in liaising with Point Blank Body Armor in Amittyville, N.Y. to develop an upper body protective vest. The Star Vest was subsequently developed and evaluated by the RCMP's tactical troop in Ottawa, Ontario.

It should be noted that Correctional Service Canada took an interest in this Star Vest, and has since adopted it for use within their correctional facilities.

STAR VEST EVALUATION

The S.T.A.R. Vest has been evaluated by the R.C.M.P.'s Tactical Troop and the Canadian Correctional Services. It was determined that this type of equipment is better suited to the types of situations encountered in cell blocks where prison guards are attempting to quell disturbances. The guards must be protected from all sides in those close situations from knife or pointed object attacks and the like. The police have very often a different requirement in more open areas where pursuit and arrest may be a part of the requirement. Consequently, it was found that the equipment restricts this type of movement. However, there may be times in police situations where the type of protection offered by the S.T.A.R. Vest is a pre-requisite.

The police requirement was for protection to the front abdomen, shoulders, upper arms and groin areas. However, the prison guard requirement necessitated protection to the back as well especially when measures are being taken to quell disturbances in the sometimes very narrow cell block walkway where guards are exposed to attacks from all sides. Consequently, the company that developed the STAR Vest modified this equipment to include back protection.

The STAR Vest provides protection against knives, ice picks and other pointed objects. Too, it will protect against blows from clubs, rocks and other blunt objects. The 100 % Nomex outershell protects against flame retardancy.



Front view of S.T.A.R. Vest